United Nations E/ESCAP/70/L.3

Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Bangkok, 23 May 2014 (Phase I)
Agenda item 1
Opening of the session

Draft report

Organization of phase I of the seventieth session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. Owing to the special circumstances in Bangkok, the seventieth session was held in two phases. Phase I was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok on 23 May 2014, and Phase II was scheduled to be held from 4 to 8 August 2014.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:[1]

Members

[Afghanistan]
[Armenia]
[Australia]
[Azerbaijan]
[Bangladesh]
[Bhutan]
[Brunei Darussalam]
[Cambodia]
[China]
[Democratic People's Republic of Korea]
[Fiji]
[France]
[India]
[Indonesia]
[Iran (Islamic Republic of)]
[Japan]
[Kazakhstan]
[Kiribati]
[Lao People's Democratic Republic]
[Malaysia]

[1] The list of countries/organizations attending the session is tentative and will be updated on 23 May 2014 with those in actual attendance.

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[Marshall Islands]
[Mongolia]
[Myanmar]
[Nauru]
[Nepal]
[Netherlands]
[Pakistan]
[Papua New Guinea]
[Philippines]
[Republic of Korea]
[Russian Federation]
[Samoa]
[Singapore]
[Solomon Islands]
[Sri Lanka]
[Thailand]
[Timor-Leste]
[Turkey]
[Turkmenistan]
[Tuvalu]
[United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland]
[United States of America]
[Uzbekistan]
[Vanuatu]
[Viet Nam]
Associate members
[Hong Kong, China]
[Macao, China]

3. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of [Austria] and [ ] attended.

4. The session was attended by representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: [Economic Commission for Africa; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Economic Commission for Europe; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Regional Commissions New York Office.]

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.]

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Finance Corporation; International Maritime Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Universal Postal Union; and World Health Organization.]

7. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: [Asian Development Bank; Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia; Coordinating Committee for Geosciences Programmes in

East and South-East Asia; Eurasian Economic Commission; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones; and ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.]

8. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (Bangladesh) as Chair of Phase I. Ms. Jocelyn S. Batoon-Garcia (Philippines) and Mr. Veali Vagi (Papua New Guinea) were elected Vice-Chairs of Phase I.

9. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcome statement.

B. Agenda

10. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
   - (a) Opening addresses;
   - (b) Election of officers;
   - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries:
   - (a) Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Samoa, 2014;
   - (b) Sustainable management of oceans for sustainable development and poverty eradication;
   - (c) Development issues relevant to least developed countries;
   - (d) Development issues relevant to landlocked developing countries;
   - (e) The perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015;
   - (f) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions:
   - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
   - (b) Trade and investment;
   - (c) Transport;
   - (d) Environment and development;
   - (e) Information and communications technology;
   - (f) Disaster risk reduction;
   - (g) Social development;
   - (h) Statistics;

(i) Subregional activities for development.

4. Management issues:

(a) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013;

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015;

(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017;

(d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.

5. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management.

6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015).

Ministerial segment

8. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:

(a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014.

9. Theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission: "Regional connectivity for shared prosperity".

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

11. The following agenda items were considered at Phase I:

3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions:

(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;

4. Management issues:

(a) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013;

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015;

(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017;

5. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management;

6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission;

7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015);

10. Other matters;

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Adoption of the report

12. The report on Phase I of the seventieth session was adopted at the second plenary meeting on 23 May 2014.

United Nations E/ESCAP/70/L.3/Add.1

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Bangkok, 23 May 2014 (Phase I)
Agenda item 11
Adoption of the report of the Commission

Draft report

Chair: Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (Bangladesh)

Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission

1. The requests contained in the draft resolutions listed below will have no additional programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2014-2015:[1]

(a) Draft resolution E/ESCAP/70/L.4: Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Draft resolution E/ESCAP/70/L.5: Disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned draft resolutions.

[1] See General Assembly resolution 68/248 A-C of 27 December 2013.

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United Nations E/ESCAP/70/L.4

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Bangkok, 23 May 2014 (Phase I)
Item 3(a) of the provisional agenda
Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

Draft resolution

Sponsored by: Bangladesh
Co-sponsored by: Bhutan, China, Islamic Republic of Iran

Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

PP1. *Recalling* its resolution 68/10, in which it decided to convene the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013,

PP2. *Welcoming* the successful outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 2013,[1]

OP1. *Endorses* the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

OP2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To assist members and associate members in setting up and supporting the work of the four area-specific expert working groups in accordance with section II, paragraphs 3 and 6(b), of the Bangkok Declaration;

[1] See E/ESCAP/70/7.

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(c) To convene in 2015 the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings for the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific mentioned in section II, paragraph 3, of the Bangkok Declaration;

(d) To convene the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific in 2015 to review the progress on the agenda of regional economic integration outlined in section III of the present Declaration, consider the recommendations of the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings and decide on follow-up actions, as expressed in section II, paragraph 6(d), of the Bangkok Declaration;

(e) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

I. Preamble

We, the Ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 2013,

Emphasizing the need to sustain the region's inclusive and sustainable development to continue to reduce the number of poor people living in absolute poverty from the current levels and to close the development gaps across countries,

Reaffirming the unique role of the Commission as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Recalling the First Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation, which was held in Manila in 1963 under the auspices of the Commission and led to the establishment of the Asian Development Bank,

Also recalling important contributions of the Commission to regional economic cooperation and integration, as highlighted in its resolution 68/10 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific, and noting other important regional economic cooperation and integration initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region,

Further recalling that the Commission in its resolution 68/10 requested the Executive Secretary to support the convening of the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the First Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation, and to review the theme study for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, entitled *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,[1, 2]

Recalling Commission resolution 69/10 on promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific,

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 64/186 and 67/194 on building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway and 67/298 on developing cooperation for better connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region,

Recognizing the important role of safe, efficient, clean, reliable and affordable transport systems in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving social welfare of people and enhancing regional integration in Asia and the Pacific,

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[1] ST/ESCAP/2629.

[2] See also E/ESCAP/68/22.

Also recognizing that, given the vast land mass, oceans and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, land-based and sea-based fibre-optic cable networks and satellites play a critical role in developing a seamless regional information space,

Further recognizing that in the context of economic uncertainties after the global financial and economic crisis and with the rising economic prominence of the Asia-Pacific region in the world economy, the promotion of intraregional trade within Asia and the Pacific can provide enormous opportunities to support economic growth and employment creation in the region,

Reaffirming the imperatives of sustainable development, reducing poverty and inequalities, increasing the resilience of our economies to natural and economic disasters and the effects of climate change, sustainable management of natural resources, enhancing food and energy security, closing the digital divide and reducing development gaps across countries to enhance social cohesion,

Emphasizing that fostering trade, investment, and economic and development cooperation among countries in Asia and the Pacific can create opportunities not only for supporting economic growth, but also for achieving wider *developmental* objectives,

Noting that improving connectivity with regard to land, river, sea and air transport as well as energy and information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as trade facilitation, is critical to boost trade, investment and the movement of people among countries,

Emphasizing the need to substantially enhance the degree of connectivity in the region, including through investment in transport, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure, and through improvements in trade and transport facilitation,

Recalling Commission resolution 69/6 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development,

Emphasizing the need to develop existing, evolving and innovative national, regional and global partnerships to help members and associate members address the challenges and seize the opportunities associated with growing populations, the demographic dividend, internal and international migration, and urbanization,

Noting the urgent need to increase the availability of and access to financing for regional infrastructure projects, especially those that link least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States with each other and with other economies in Asia and the Pacific, including through facilitating transit transportation to seaports,

Also noting with satisfaction the adoption of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific,[3] which is aimed at improving the economic feasibility of the provision of regular and predictable inter-island shipping services in the Pacific subregion,

[3] See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

Emphasizing that cooperation among countries in the region is critical to increase resilience to address vulnerabilities and risks of natural disasters, food and energy insecurity, scarcity of surface- and groundwater resources, and unsustainable use of natural resources, including those in the oceans, and the effects of climate change in order to pursue a sustainable development path,

Also emphasizing the need to address the growing gap in broadband connectivity between developed and developing countries, so that affordable access to high-speed networks is available to all,[4]

Noting that the Zero Hunger Challenge, which was launched globally by the Secretary-General in Brazil in June 2012 and regionally by the Deputy Secretary-General on the occasion of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, could provide a useful framework for regional cooperation in the area of food security,

Recognizing the accumulation of financial resources within Asia and the Pacific, the need for facilitating their broader flow, and the positive role of financial cooperation in enhancing economic resilience and closing infrastructure gaps in the region, and building on the work under way for widening the scope of existing arrangements and deliberating on new relevant coordinated mechanisms, such as a regional financial institution that promotes infrastructure investment and complements existing financial institutions,

Acknowledging the valuable role of regional groupings and organizations, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Customs Union and Common Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, the East Asia Summit, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the Micronesian Trade Committee, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in the area of regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Taking note of the visions for a broader Asia and Pacific community,

Having reviewed the theme study prepared for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,

II. Policy directions

1. *Resolve* to work together to pursue enhanced regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific in the following four areas:

(a) Moving towards the formation of an integrated market;

[4] The gap in broadband connectivity is widening in terms of indicators such as total international Internet bandwidth, international Internet bandwidth per user, and in terms of broadband access between the developing and developed countries of Asia and the Pacific. Source: ESCAP, based on the International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database 2013.

(b) The development of seamless connectivity across the region in the areas of transport, energy and information and communications technology, among others, including through the full realization of key regional initiatives;

(c) Enhancing financial cooperation for, among other things, closing infrastructure gaps across countries in the region and exploring the possibility of providing liquidity support;

(d) Increasing economic and technical cooperation to address shared vulnerabilities and risks;

2. *Agree* to pursue the agenda for such cooperation as outlined in section III of the present Declaration as an important step towards realizing a broad long-term vision of an economic community of Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Decide* to create four area-specific expert working groups to take stock of current regional efforts pertaining to economic cooperation and integration, to identify gaps in those efforts, to recommend concrete actions to make progress in each of the four areas listed in operative paragraph 1 above, and to submit their recommendations to intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings to be convened for the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific to take place in 2015;

4. *Agree* to assist countries with special needs, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in taking advantage of opportunities arising from regional economic cooperation and integration, including, as appropriate, through support to enhance their capacities and through technical assistance;

5. *Invite* members and associate members of the Commission, donor countries, multilateral financing institutions, relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and regional organizations, relevant non-governmental organizations, international think tanks and the private sector to provide financial and technical support, within their mandates and core competencies, for the implementation of the agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration;

6. *Request* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord high priority to the agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration in the work of ESCAP;

(b) To support the work of the four area-specific expert working groups including the preparation of their terms of reference in consultation with members and associate members and convene the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings for the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific referred to in operative paragraph 3 above;

(c) To ensure effective coordination with United Nations and multilateral agencies concerned, including relevant subregional technical organizations within their respective mandates and core competencies, in supporting the implementation of the regional economic cooperation and integration agenda;

(d) To convene the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific in 2015 to review the progress on the agenda of regional economic integration outlined in section III of the present Declaration, consider the recommendations of the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings and decide on follow-up actions.

III. Suggested agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific

1. The agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration is aimed at deepening and broadening economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific and at moving towards the formation of an economic community of Asia and the Pacific as a long-term goal.

2. Recognizing the important progress achieved by regional groupings and organizations in integrating their subregions, the agenda is designed to support their efforts and further strengthen their contribution as building blocks of a broader regional initiative. For this purpose, the subregional offices of the secretariat could provide support to and liaise with the subregional groupings in their respective subregions within their respective mandates.

3. In order to promote and facilitate opportunities for mutual learning and coordination among regional groupings and organizations, including their sectoral cooperation initiatives, ESCAP could facilitate consultations among such groupings and organizations at the annual sessions of the Commission for the purpose of discussing progress in economic cooperation and integration in ESCAP subregions, sharing best practices and considering ways to enhance economic cooperation and integration among the subregions.

4. It is important to recognize that challenges generally associated with least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, such as small market sizes, geographic limitations and absence of relevant trade infrastructure, reduce the impact of regional cooperation and integration initiatives that are meant to enhance trade, market development and improve economic growth. In order to broaden the access of those countries to regional trade and connectivity, there is a need to implement specific policies that focus on productive capacity-building related to infrastructure development, broadening the economic base, access to finance and providing assistance in overcoming the risks and shocks of entering into a regional trade block.

5. The second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, which is proposed to be held in 2015, will take stock of the progress made on the agenda of cooperation and integration agreed at the First Ministerial Conference and consider the recommendations of the area-specific expert working groups established by it.

A. Moving towards the formation of an integrated market

6. In order to exploit complementarities between subregions, it is critical to move towards an integrated market of Asian and Pacific economies. One of the four area-specific expert working groups will

explore the possible options for building an integrated market of the Asian and Pacific region in an inclusive and equitable manner.[5]

7. Recognizing the importance of trade for growth and development, members and associate members will strive to foster trade facilitation, bring down trade barriers through cooperation on liberalization, and resist and refrain from protectionism.

8. It is necessary to recognize the importance of migration flows for tackling structural labour demand and supply mismatches across countries and the critical developmental role that remittances play. In this context, it is also necessary to enhance regional consultations to address the protection of rights of migrant workers in accordance with internationally agreed principles, as appropriate, as well as applicable national laws, regulations and policies.

9. Intraregional tourism, which has been growing in Asia and the Pacific as a consequence of the region's progress in raising standards of living and reducing poverty, could help spur development in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the region. However, the development of the tourism sector is highly dependent on the existence of efficient, regular and affordable air services connecting recipient and source countries. Regional cooperation in this area is particularly important in order to support these countries in promoting the development of their tourism sectors.

B. The development of seamless connectivity in the region

10. In order to strengthen seamless transport connectivity in the region, it is essential, as appropriate, to implement the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific,[6] and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016),[7] the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport,[8] the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration,[9] and the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific.[10] It is also important for ESCAP members and associate members that have not already done so, to consider becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,[11] the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network[12] and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.[13]

11. In view of the critical importance of the connectivity agenda, one of the four area-specific expert working groups will take a closer look at cross-sectoral synergies among transport, energy and information and

[5] The word "equitable" refers to the principle of special and differential treatment in favour of weaker economies, as included in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

[6] Commission resolution 68/4, annex.

[7] Ibid., appendix I.

[8] Ibid., appendix II.

[9] See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/7, chap. I, sect. A.

[10] See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

[13] Commission resolution 69/7, annex.

communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and make recommendations.

12. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum could address the need to develop energy connectivity by facilitating the evolution of an "Asian energy highway", including oil and gas pipelines and grid connections across borders, to exploit demand-supply mismatches among countries and to further develop a regional energy market and a Pacific regional energy data repository for sustainable energy for all. In view of the importance of energy cooperation for the energy security of the region, the Forum could consider means of implementing a review mechanism for its recommendations. The Forum could also enhance cooperation among energy-producing, transit and energy-consuming countries for the sustainable use of resources.

13. Improved ICT connectivity and the reduction of the digital divide may require enhanced cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in such activities as entering into public-private partnerships, exploring new opportunities emerging from technological innovations and connectivity and supporting the development of regional initiatives for ICT connectivity set forth in Commission resolution 69/10 in order to provide seamless broadband connectivity and reduce the costs of such connectivity for all throughout Asia and the Pacific. Improved regional cooperation on ICT issues could also promote policies that maximize the economic and social benefits of improved ICT connectivity, while mitigating the common challenges and threats raised by new and continuously evolving technologies.

C. Enhancing financial cooperation

14. It is important to recognize the large potential for cooperation in finance in order to develop the region's capital markets and a regional financial architecture to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for meeting the need for liquidity support and trade finance and to close the infrastructure gaps. One of the four area-specific expert working groups could examine ways and means of exploiting the potential of financial cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, including considering options suggested in paragraph 5(f) of Commission resolution 69/6 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnership in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development.

D. Increasing economic cooperation to address shared vulnerabilities, risks and challenges

15. One of the four area-specific expert working groups could explore ways and means to foster regional cooperation for addressing shared vulnerabilities, risks and challenges, including the measures discussed in the following paragraphs.

16. The establishment of an Asian and Pacific agricultural research and innovation network could be considered to serve as a regional knowledge network aimed at addressing sustainable productivity increases and encouraging responsible investment in sustainable small-scale farming, agro-industries and rural development.

17. Regional and subregional food banks, such as that created by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve,

could be strengthened. It is important for countries to share information on food stocks and to facilitate food trade through information-sharing related to sanitary and phytosanitary and other food safety standards, agricultural good practices and trading opportunities.

18. The Zero Hunger Challenge[14] could provide a guideline for regional cooperation in the area of food security. Regional cooperation is particularly necessary to assist countries with special needs, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

19. While increased connectivity facilitates cross-border flows of trade and investment, it also raises the risks of transboundary shocks, which could have serious impacts on social, economic and environmental infrastructure and processes across countries of the region and could lead to systemic failures. In that context, it is important to recognize the role of relevant mechanisms for regional cooperation and coordination and in facilitating the sharing of best practices across the subregions.

20. The role of regional cooperation in ICT and space technologies for the monitoring of hazards and the assessment of vulnerabilities, exposures and risks should be recognized. Regional cooperation, such as through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and regional disaster management support systems, such as Sentinel Asia, could also help members and associate members mainstream disaster risk reduction into their development planning, formulate disaster-resilient recovery and reconstruction measures and take into account disaster risks in their land use planning.

21. The pooling of space-based information and ground support as well as communication systems for monitoring and early warning at the regional level should be considered in order to address multiple hazards and cut across geographical boundaries through the sharing of data, information and best practices between national and subregional early warning systems. In this context, it is important to strengthen the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES).

22. As the scarcity of natural resources is becoming a constraint to the growth of Asian and Pacific economies, there is a need for appropriate and efficient pooling of resources and coordination at the regional and subregional levels with the objective of fostering research and development regarding (a) the conservation of natural resources, including oceans and energy, (b) climate change adaptation and mitigation and (c) the development of environmentally friendly technologies up to the pre-competitive stage. This could be achieved through greater coordination among national innovation agencies in Asian and Pacific countries and through the establishment of regional innovation centres for different core technologies. The role of ESCAP regional institutions, such as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture, and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, needs to be recognized in this respect.

23. A number of members and associate members of the Commission are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as the

[14] See www.un.org/en/zerohunger.

contamination of freshwater tables by rising levels of seawater, the increased frequency and severity of cyclones, rising of sea levels and the melting of snow caps resulting in flash floods and outburst of glacier lakes. These impacts expose them to the risk of suffering significant damage to their physical infrastructure and productive capacity, which could strain government resources and exacerbate development challenges. Sharing of experiences and best practices among members and associate members to build resilience to the impacts of climate change is thus highly desirable. Members and associate members underline the urgency for enhancing the means of implementation to combat the adverse impacts of climate change in this region in accordance with internationally agreed mandates.

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda
Other matters

Draft resolution

Sponsored by: Philippines
Co-sponsored by: Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Pakistan

Disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

PP1. *Reaffirming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction and the role of the regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,[1]

PP2. *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/209 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly requested the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States to achieve disaster risk reduction as part of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[2]

PP3. *Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 68/211 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly: (a) encouraged the further implementation of all priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including the establishment of reliable disaster statistics; (b) set out the objectives of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, among which was the completion of the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; and (c) requested the organizations of the United Nations system to actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction itself,

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

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PP4. *Recalling* its resolutions 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, 67/11 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific, and 69/12 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

PP5. *Stressing* the importance of disaggregated data related to disasters in enabling a comprehensive assessment of the socioeconomic effects of disasters and strengthening evidence-based policymaking at all levels for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation,

PP6. *Taking note with appreciation* of the efforts of the secretariat, in coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, to promote disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific,

PP7. *Having considered* the report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session,[3] in particular the recommendation that the secretariat work towards monitoring more effectively the resilience of member States to disasters, including through the development of a core set of disaster-related statistics in close coordination with the Committee on Statistics,

OP1. *Invites* members and associate members, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, donors, and international and regional organizations as appropriate, to build and assess their resilience to and capacity to deal with disasters through, among other measures, the improvement of disaster-related statistics,

OP2. *Decides* to establish an expert group comprising statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts to work towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics to be approved by the Commission,

OP3. *Also decides* that the expert group shall report on the progress made in developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics to the Committee on Statistics in 2014 and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015,

OP4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the work of the expert group, including by soliciting nominations from governments, and convening and servicing the meetings of the expert group,

OP5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction of the work initiated by ESCAP towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics,

OP6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[3] E/ESCAP/70/14.

United Nations E/ESCAP/70/L.6

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Draft decisions

Agenda item 4
Management issues

(a) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013

Draft decision 70/1

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/70/20).

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015

Draft decision 70/2

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/70/21).

(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017

Draft decision 70/3

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 16)).

Agenda item 5
Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

Draft decision 70/4

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to postpone the evaluation related to the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management pursuant to its

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resolution 67/4 (E/ESCAP/70/23), and decided to review the evaluation at its seventy-first session.

Agenda item 6
Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Draft decision 70/5

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/70/24).

Agenda item 7
Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015)

Draft decision 70/6

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that its seventy-first session would be held in April or May 2015. The actual dates and venue would be determined in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. The Commission also decided that the theme topic for its seventy-first session would be: "Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation".

Agenda item 10
Other matters

Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Draft decision 70/7

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific elected, in addition to the host country, India, the following 13 countries to the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the period 2014-2017: Bangladesh; China; Fiji; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

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